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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Eighteenth session
19 January-6 February 1998

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee.

4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.

7. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighteenth session.

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ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Opening of the session

The eighteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its seventeenth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its eighteenth session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1998/I/1)

Item 3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson attended the fifty-second session of the General Assembly (Third Committee); the eighth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies; and other meetings related to the work of the Committee.

Item 4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party to the Convention did not wish to present a report, the Secretariat was authorized to select the report of another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which the report had been received.

At its seventeenth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of a balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to consider at its eighteenth session a total of 10 reports of States parties.

At its eighteenth session the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial reports of Azerbaijan (CEDAW/C/AZE/1), Croatia (CEDAW/C/CRO/1), Czech Republic (CEDAW/C/CZE/1) and Zimbabwe (CEDAW/C/ZWE/1); the combined second and third reports of Bulgaria (CEDAW/C/BGR/2-3) and Indonesia (CEDAW/C/IDN/2-3); the combined second and third, and the fourth periodic reports of the Dominican Republic (CEDAW/C/DOM/2-3 and CEDAW/C/DOM/4) and the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Mexico (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4 and Add.1).

A tentative timetable for the consideration by the Committee of the reports of States parties is given in the proposed organization of work (see annex).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of the States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State party's report is being examined, and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its eighteenth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its eighteenth session will have before it the

report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1998/I/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. The pre-session working group for the eighteenth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 12 to 16 January 1998.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1998/I/2)

Initial report of Azerbaijan (CEDAW/C/AZE/1)

Initial report of Croatia (CEDAW/C/CRO/1)

Initial report of the Czech Republic (CEDAW/C/CZE/1)

Initial report of Zimbabwe (CEDAW/C/ZWE/1)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Bulgaria (CEDAW/C/BGR/2-3)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Indonesia (CEDAW/C/IDN/2-3)

Combined second and third, and the fourth periodic reports of the Dominican Republic (CEDAW/C/DOM/2-3 and CEDAW/C/DOM/4)

Combined third and fourth periodic reports of Mexico (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4 and Add.1)

Item 5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. The Committee at its eighteenth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1998/I/3 and Add.1-4).

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

At its seventeenth session, the Committee decided that its next general recommendation would be on women and health (art. 12 of the Convention). In the preparation of the general recommendation, the Beijing Platform for Action, the report of the International Conference on Population and Development and other relevant documents would be used. The Committee designated Ms. Shalev to assist in initially integrating information gathered, including information provided by non-governmental organizations at the informal consultation held during the seventeenth session, which would be discussed by the Committee at its eighteenth session in January 1998.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee will have before it a working paper on the draft general recommendations on article 12.

At its seventeenth session, the Committee decided that its contribution to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should include a written statement on reservations, particularly in the context of article 2 of the Convention. Ms. Silvia Cartwright was designated by the Committee to submit a first draft of a statement relating to reservations.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee will have before it a draft working paper on reservations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1998/I/3)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1998/I/3/Add.1)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/1998/I/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1998/I/3/Add.3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1998/I/3/Add.4)

Working paper containing the draft general recommendation on article 12

Working paper containing a draft of the contribution of the Committee to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, prepared by Ms. Cartwright

Item 6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee will have before it a report of the Secretariat on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1998/I/4).

At its seventeenth session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to compile the comments of the members of the Committee on the report of the independent expert on the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies for submission to the Committee at its eighteenth session. A compilation of these comments may be found in the report on ways and means.

The Committee continued to review the rules of procedure at its seventeenth session. It will have before it a working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1998/I/4)

Working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Item 7. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. It also decided that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions which could be reviewed and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee in its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Committee

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighteenth session

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

ANNEX

Proposed organization of work

Date		Agenda item
Monday, 19 January 1998		
360th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the session
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Composition of Working Groups I and II, mandate for Working Groups I and II
	Item 3	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee
361st meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention
		Specialized agencies and other United Nations entities
	Item 6	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
		Working Groups I and II
Tuesday, 20 January 1998		
362nd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
		Azerbaijan, initial report (CEDAW/C/AZE/1)
		Introduction by State party's representative
363rd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)

Note. The rooms in which meetings will take place will be indicated in the daily Journal.

Date		Agenda item
		Azerbaijan, initial report (CEDAW/C/AZE/1) (continued)
		Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Wednesday, 21 January 1998		
364th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
		Croatia, initial report (CEDAW/C/CRO/1)
		Introduction by State party's representative
365th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
		Croatia, initial report (CEDAW/C/CRO/1) (continued)
		Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Thursday, 22 January 1998		
366th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
		Zimbabwe, initial report (CEDAW/C/ZWE/1)
		Introduction by State party's representative
367th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)
		Zimbabwe, initial report (CEDAW/C/ZWE/1) (continued)
		Questions by experts

Date		Agenda item
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Friday, 23 January 1998		
368th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Azerbaijan)
369th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Croatia)
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Monday, 26 January 1998		
370th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Czech Republic, initial report (CEDAW/C/CZE/1) Introduction by State party's representative
371st meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Czech Republic, initial report (CEDAW/C/CZE/1) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Tuesday, 27 January 1998		
372nd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Zimbabwe)
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II

Date		Agenda item
3 p.m.	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II
Wednesday, 28 January 1998		
373rd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Czech Republic)
3 p.m.	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II
Thursday, 29 January 1998		
374th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Indonesia, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/IDN/2-3)
375th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Introduction by State party's representative Indonesia, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/IDN/2-3) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II
Friday, 30 January 1998		
376th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Bulgaria, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BGR/2-3) Introduction by State party's representative

Date		Agenda item
377th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Bulgaria, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BGR/2-3) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Committee of the Whole
Monday, 2 February 1998		
378th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Mexico, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4 and Add.1) Introduction by State party's representative
379th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Mexico, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4 and Add.1) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Working Groups I and II
Tuesday, 3 February 1998		
380th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Dominican Republic, combined second and third and the fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/DOM/2-3 and CEDAW/C/DOM/4) Introduction by State party's representative
381st meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued)

Date		Agenda item
		Dominican Republic, combined second and third, and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/DOM/2-3 and CEDAW/C/DOM/4) (continued)
		Questions by experts
	Items 5 and 6	Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, 4 February 1998		
10 a.m.	Items 5 and 6	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on initial reports
3 p.m.	Items 5 and 6	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on initial reports
Thursday, 5 February 1998		
10 a.m.	Items 5 and 6	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports
3 p.m.	Items 5 and 6	Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments on subsequent periodic reports
Friday, 6 February 1998		
382nd meeting 10 a.m.	Items 5 and 6	Report of Working Groups I and II
	Item 7	Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session
	Item 5	Working Group of the Whole
383rd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 8	Adoption of the report